

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C.20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 June 2000 (14.06.00)	
International application No. PCT/US99/24183	Applicant's or agent's file reference 1197.001WO1
International filing date (day/month/year) 15 October 1999 (15.10.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 22 October 1998 (22.10.98)
Applicant KRAMER, George, H.	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

22 May 2000 (22.05.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer</p> <p>Antonia Muller</p> <p>Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

15

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1197.001WO1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/24183	International filing date (day/month/year) 15/10/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 22/10/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61H39/04		
Applicant EAST WEST MEDICAL, L.L.P. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 004 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22/05/2000	Date of completion of this report 19.01.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Krantz, L Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2523 <div data-bbox="1386 1835 1549 1982" data-label="Image"> </div>

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).):*

Description, pages:

1-6,8,11,12	as originally filed		
7,9,10	as received on	02/11/2000	with letter of 25/10/2000

Claims, No.:

1-27	as originally filed
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Drawings, sheets:

1/8,3/8-8/8	as originally filed		
2/8	as received on	02/11/2000	with letter of 25/10/2000

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 13 - 27 .

because:

- ☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 13 , 14 , 17 - 26 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
see separate sheet
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 15 , 16 , 27 .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination report cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
- ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	6-8
	No:	Claims	2 - 5 , 9 - 12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	13 - 26 No

2. Citations and explanations **see separate sheet**

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

The following document cited in the International Search report will be referred to by means of the following appellation:

D1 : US-A-4 022 189

D1 is also cited on page 2 of the description .

III

Claims 15 , 16 and 27 have not been searched.

The reasons why some claims have not been searched are given in the search-report not in the examination-report.

Claims 13 and 14 , 17 - 26 relate to therapeutic treatment of the human body PCT-Rule 67.1.iv

V

Interpretation of claim 1:

It might be argued that there is an orienting-relationship between the orienting-margin and the bead (or beads) in claim 1 of the invention. Yet such an argument is incorrect since no relationship whatsoever is mentioned in claim 1 between the bead and the margin. In claim 1 the bead is only said to be somewhere on the adhesive-layer , nothing else.

Also the shape of the orienting-margin in claim 1 is fully unknown since this shape depends on which skin-surface-portion on the patient is to be treated.

Although it is not suggested for a surgical knife , the knife may well be used to cut bread.

Although in D1 it is not suggested to use the margins of the conventional surgical-plaster for orientation purposes , such a use is fully possible.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

Claim 1 of the invention is not for a use or method but for a device whereby only **recognizable** constructional features count in the comparison with prior-art.

See PCT-Guidelines C-III 3.1 about claim-categories.

The shape mentioned in claim 1 of the invention can have any form since the skin surface portion of the patient is not defined. Thus if the orienting margin were shaped to correspond to the vertebrae or to the vertical line between the ribs on the chest then this shape may well be a straight line.

A surgical plaster is only adhesive on one side and has a woven base-material on the other side. Thus the adhesive surgical plaster suggested in **D1** column 2 line 11 and seen as 12 in **D1** fig 2 consists of a base sheet and an adhesive layer. Cf. the striking similarity between **D1** figure 2 and fig 2-a of the invention.

This plaster has a margin (**D1** fig 1) where a portion is shaped as an "orienting margin" corresponding to any straight-line on the skin surface. On the adhesive upper surface 12 there is at least one bead 14 which may well be spherical, see **D1** col.2 L.23 "circular".

There may well be only one bead 14 on a sheet since **D1** col.2 L.58 says two beads may be placed on each their base material 12.

To position the beads 14 on acupuncture points is suggested **D1** col.1 L.24 yet the skin is not punctured col.1 L.38 whereby acupressure is achieved. Thus the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new, Rule 64 PCT.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

V .2

The subject-matter of claims 2 - 5 and 9 - 12 is considered obvious in the light of D1.

Thus in D1 the beads can be magnetized col.2 L.39 which means they may be of iron , see also D1 col.2 L.28 "any suitable material" .

16 in D1 is a release film and it is obvious that these acupuncture pressure plasters may be sold in a package with instructions for use.

V .3

It is not considered obvious to provide the plaster in D1 with a tab which can be wrapped around a body portion.

No such suggestion is made in the available prior art .

Thus claims 6 - 8 are considered inventive.

D1 is the only (prior-published) document of the search-report where an adhesive-layer is suggested for attachment of acupuncture-pressure-devices.

VII

The last lines on page 12 make the scope of the claims unclear PCT-Article 6 , thus the last word "invention" should be "claims" .

→ →

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

VII .2

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

VII .3

The Applicant has given the new drawing number 2/8 although originally there were only seven sheets of drawings.

✱

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

VIKSNINS, Ann S.
Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner
& Kluth
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 19.01.2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference
1197.001WO1

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/US99/24183

International filing date (day/month/year)
15/10/1999

Priority date (day/month/year)
22/10/1998

Applicant
EAST WEST MEDICAL, L.L.P. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Schwegman, Lundberg,
Woessner & Kluth, P.A.

JAN 29 2001

RECEIVED

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/



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Authorized officer

Ertl, L

Tel. +49 89 2399-7447



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1197.001WO1	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> FOR FURTHER ACTION </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) </div> </div>	
International application No. PCT/US99/24183	International filing date (day/month/year) 15/10/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 22/10/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61H39/04		
Applicant EAST WEST MEDICAL, L.L.P. et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 004 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 22/05/2000	Date of completion of this report 19.01.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 </div> </div>	Authorized officer Krantz, L Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2523	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/24183

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).):*

Description, pages:

1-6,8,11,12	as originally filed		
7,9,10	as received on	02/11/2000	with letter of 25/10/2000

Claims, No.:

1-27	as originally filed
------	---------------------

Drawings, sheets:

1/7,3/7-7/7	as originally filed		
2/7	as received on	02/11/2000	with letter of 25/10/2000

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 13 - 27 .

because:

- ☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 13 , 14 , 17 - 26 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
see separate sheet
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 15 , 16 , 27 .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination report cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
- ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;

citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	6-8
	No: Claims	2 - 5 , 9 - 12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	13 - 26 No

**2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet**

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

The following document cited in the International Search report will be referred to by means of the following appellation:

D1 : US-A-4 022 189

D1 is also cited on page 2 of the description .

III

Claims 15 , 16 and 27 have not been searched.

The reasons why some claims have not been searched are given in the search-report not in the examination-report.

Claims 13 and 14 , 17 - 26 relate to therapeutic treatment of the human body PCT-Rule 67.1.iv

V

Interpretation of claim 1:

It might be argued that there is an orienting-relationship between the orienting-margin and the bead (or beads) in claim 1 of the invention. Yet such an argument is incorrect since no relationship whatsoever is mentioned in claim 1 between the bead and the margin. In claim 1 the bead is only said to be somewhere on the adhesive-layer , nothing else.

Also the shape of the orienting-margin in claim 1 is fully unknown since this shape depends on which skin-surface-portion on the patient is to be treated.

Although it is not suggested for a surgical knife , the knife may well be used to cut bread.

Although in D1 it is not suggested to use the margins of the conventional surgical-plaster for orientation purposes , such a use is fully possible.

Claim 1 of the invention is not for a use or method but for a device whereby only **recognizable** constructional features count in the comparison with prior-art.

See PCT-Guidelines C-III 3.1 about claim-categories.

The shape mentioned in claim 1 of the invention can have any form since the skin surface portion of the patient is not defined.

Thus if the orienting margin were shaped to correspond to the vertebrae or to the vertical line between the ribs on the chest then this shape may well be a straight line.

A surgical plaster is only adhesive on one side and has a woven base-material on the other side.

Thus the adhesive surgical plaster suggested in **D1** column 2 line 11 and seen as 12 in **D1** fig 2 consists of a base sheet and an adhesive layer. Cf. the striking similarity between **D1** figure 2 and fig 2-a of the invention.

This plaster has a margin (**D1** fig 1) where a portion is shaped as an "orienting margin" corresponding to any straight-line on the skin surface. On the adhesive upper surface 12 there is at least one bead 14 which may well be spherical, see **D1** col.2 L.23 "circular".

There may well be only one bead 14 on a sheet since **D1** col.2 L.58 says two beads may be placed on each their base material 12.

To position the beads 14 on acupuncture points is suggested **D1** col.1 L.24 yet the skin is not punctured col.1 L.38 whereby acupressure is achieved. Thus the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new, Rule 64 PCT.

V .2

The subject-matter of claims 2 - 5 and 9 - 12 is considered obvious in the light of D1.

Thus in D1 the beads can be magnetized col.2 L.39 which means they may be of iron , see also D1 col.2 L.28 "any suitable material" .

16 in D1 is a release film and it is obvious that these acupuncture plasters may be sold in a package with instructions for use.

V .3

It is not considered obvious to provide the plaster in D1 with a tab which can be wrapped around a body portion.

No such suggestion is made in the available prior art .

Thus claims 6 - 8 are considered inventive.

D1 is the only (prior-published) document of the search-report where an adhesive-layer is suggested for attachment of acupuncture-devices.

VII

The last lines on page 12 make the scope of the claims unclear PCT-Article 6 , thus the last word "invention" should be "claims" .

→ →

VII .2

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

VII .3

The Applicant has given the new drawing number 2/8 although originally there were only seven sheets of drawings.

✱

relationship as shown by the arrows as to where the device is to be placed on the skin;

Figure 15 depicts a top plan view of yet another further additional embodiment of the present invention aligned with a specific anatomic relationship as shown by the arrows as to where the device is to be placed on the skin; and

Figure 16 depicts a top plan view of yet another further additional embodiment of the present invention aligned with a specific anatomic relationship as shown by the arrows as to where the device is to be placed on the skin.

Figure 17 depicts a device which is further embodiment of the invention and illustrates how the device can be applied to tragus.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In reference to the various Figures, wherein like reference numbers refer to like components throughout the various Figures, there is disclosed an embodiment of the present invention is depicted in Figures 1 and 2 as an acupressure patch 20 comprising a base sheet 22 and at least one bead 24. Base sheet 22 includes an adhesive layer 26, an opposite outer surface 28 and a peripheral margin 30. Peripheral margin 30 includes an orienting margin 32 that is at least a portion of peripheral margin 30. As depicted in Figure 2a and 2b, a release film 29 can be placed over adhesive layer 26 at the time of manufacture. For example, the release layer may cover the at least one bead 24 (figure 2a) or may comprise perforations allowing the at least one bead 24 to project through the release layer (Figure 2b). The purpose of a release film is to provide for convenient packaging and to prevent premature, inadvertent or undesired application of acupressure patch 20. The types and uses of release films are well known in the art.

Base sheet 20 may be manufactured from a number of different materials ranging from a cloth to a film. Various cloths useful as a base sheet include weaves made from synthetic or natural fibers, or a blend of both. Useful fibers include cotton, Dacron, polyester, and nylon. Alternatively, the base sheet may be a film made from natural or synthetic polymers and copolymers including cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, polytetrafluoroethylene, and various silicones and

headache occurring in those areas of the head so represented. This pattern of representation and the pattern's spatial relationship to the antitragus is uniform from one person to the next. Therefore, orienting margin 32 may be shaped to contour the base of the antitragus, and at least one bead 24 may be positioned on
5 base sheet 22 relative to orienting margin 32 to correspond to at least one therapy point in the vicinity of the antitragus. Just such an example using six known therapy points is depicted in Figure 3.

As shown in Figure 3, on the outer surface of a person's pinna near the antitragus and just superior to the lobe of the pinna there are represented at least
10 six ipsilateral areas of the corresponding skull. These six areas are frontal skull F, temporal skull T, occipital skull O, vertex of skull V, frontal sinus FS, and master sensorial MS. Note the spatial relationship of these six areas to the antitragus. Orienting margin 32 is shaped to conform to the outline of the base of the antitragus and six beads 24 are positioned across the surface of base sheet
15 22 to correspond to the six areas of the skull. When the user positions orienting margin 32 to conform to the base of the antitragus, the six beads 24 will then align with the six areas of the skull represented there on the surface of the pinna. Thus, even a user untrained in the art of acupressure successfully accomplishes acupressure therapy.

20 Figure 4 depicts a variation of the embodiment of the present invention wherein orienting margin 32 extends an accessory lobe 34 to an adjacent therapy point. In this example, accessory lobe 34 is extended to the therapy point on the inner surface of the pinna representing area subcortex SC by folding accessory lobe 34 over the rim the anithelix of the pinna to reach SC. Figure 5 shows a
25 side elevational view depicting how this positioning is accomplished.

A majority of the surface of a person's pinna represents the body in the form of a homunculus. As noted above, various areas of a person's ipsilateral skull area represented by therapy points proximate the antitragus. Figure 6 discloses an acupressure patch 40 having an orienting margin 42 and at least one
30 bead 44. In Figure 7, there is shown the representative points of the body for the uterus point UP and the chainman SM which are found near the inner margin of the helix. Acupressure patch 40 is positioned with orienting margin 42 adjacent

the inner margin of the helix to position beads 44 over the therapy points UP and SM.

Another example is depicted in Figures 8-10 disclosing an acupressure patch 50 having an orienting margin 52 in the shape of a wasp waste and at least one bead 54. Represented on the surface of a person's pinna are two antidepressant areas AD1 and AD2. These two areas are opposite each other over the rim of the antihelix proximate the point where the antihelix meets the edge of the antitragus. Orienting margin 52 fits within the hollow found at the junction between the antihelix and antitragus thus positioning acupressure patch 50 and its associated beads 54 over therapy points 1 and 2.

Also contemplated by the present invention, but not depicted, is the addition of a layer of medicament or a medicament that can be mixed or blended into the base sheet material. The layer may be to either surface of the base sheet depending on the material used in the base sheet and film versus weave construction. The medicament is then available to the wearer of the device, for absorption through their skin, as an additional adjunct to the acupressure effects provided by the at least one bead. Examples of useful medicaments include camphor, tiger balm, wintergreen or other pharmacological agents for transdermal or topical use.

In a preferred device of the invention the selected skin surface portion of a human body is the tragus, and the device comprises a tab suitable for adhering to the back of the tragus, and an orienting margin shaped to correspond to the front of the tragus when the base sheet is placed on the surface of the ear (see Figure 17). Such a device is particularly useful for promoting weight loss or smoking cessation.

The previous description is exemplary of a few of the many embodiments contemplated by the present invention for use on or about the ear. The use of an orienting margin can be extended to any surface area of the human body. For example, as shown diagrammatically in Figures 11 and 12, the body is represented in homunculus form on the surface of the hand. In Figure 11, on the palmar surface one notes the representation of the ventral surface and internal organs of the human. In Figure 12, the dorsal aspect of the body is represented on the extensor surface of the hand. These maps are uniform from one person to

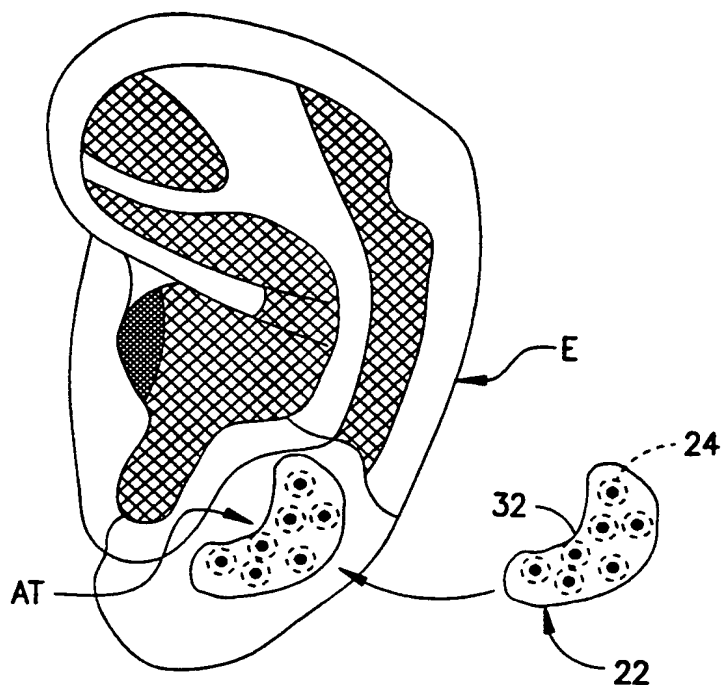


FIG. 3

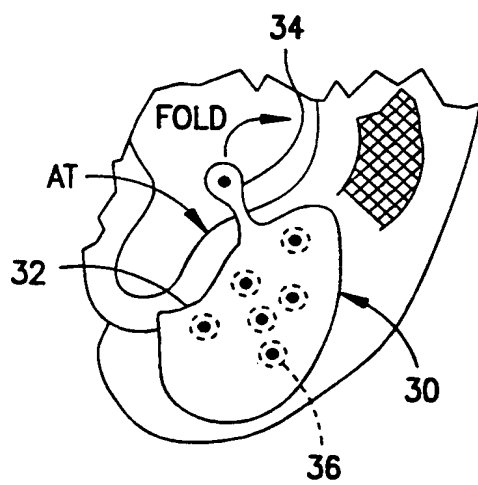


FIG. 4

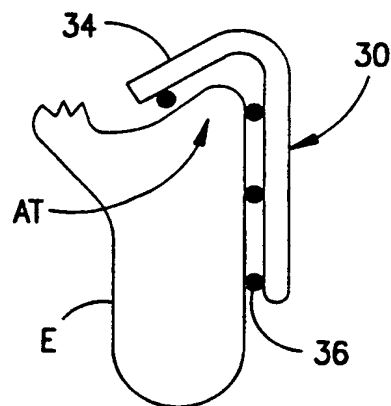


FIG. 5